

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office

as at:

Friday, 2 November 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

Local News

Omrie Golley Freed / <i>Premier News</i>	Pages 3-4
Omrie Golley Set Free / <i>New Citizen</i>	Page 5
Kenema Prison in a State of Disrepair / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 6

International News

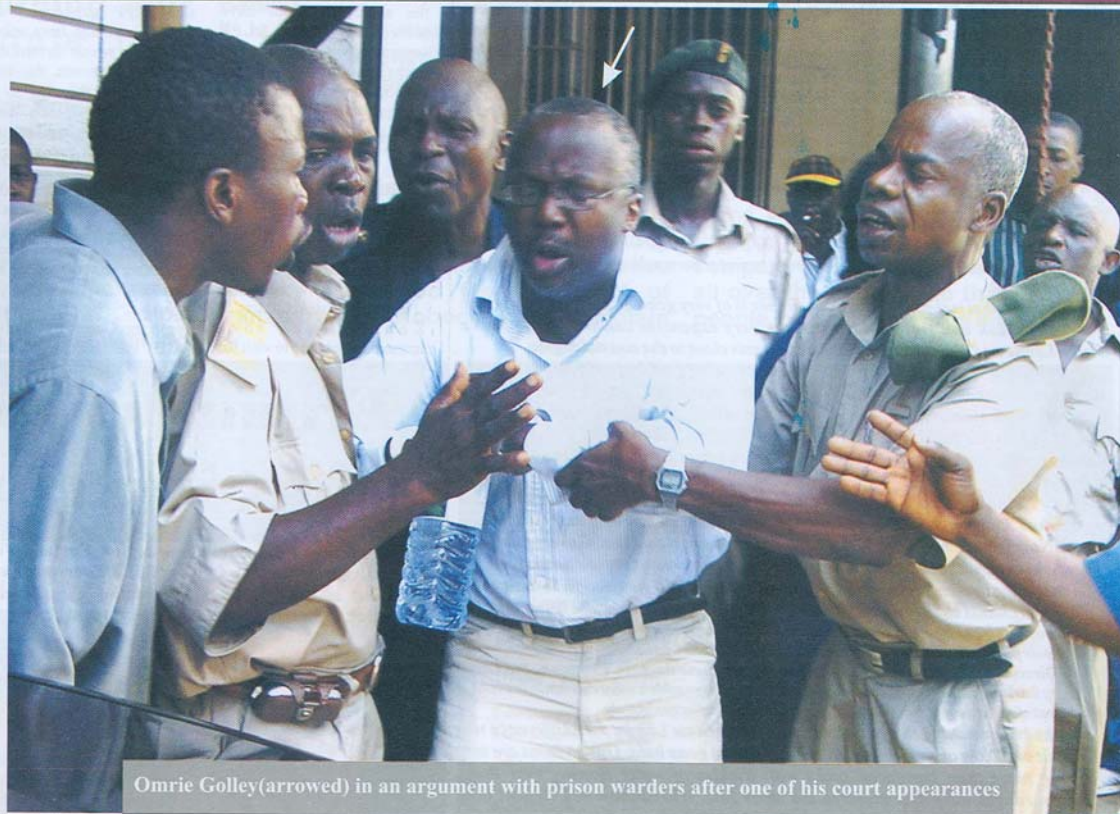
Rally Supports Sexual Violence Survivors / <i>Amnesty International</i>	Pages 7-8
Sierra Leone coup plot suspect released for lack of evidence / <i>Associated Press</i>	Page 9

Special Court Supplement

The Prosecutor Donating to the Single Leg Amputee Football Club	Page 10
---	---------

Premier News
Friday, 2 November 2007

Omrie Golley Freed



Omrie Golley (arrowed) in an argument with prison warders after one of his court appearances

Shortly after his release yesterday, Michael Omrie Golley dressed in a pink shirt and dark trousers paid a courtesy visit to President Ernest Bai Koroma to express thanks for his release and praised the Government for setting him free.

He said that he was physically alright although his blood pressure had shot up. President Koroma said this was in keeping with his words to Parliament and asked the London-

based Golley, to go and see his family and then come back home.

Golley who had pleaded with the Press on Tuesday, when leaving the Courtroom after his trial was again adjourned,

about the infringement of his Human Rights as he had been away from his family for over 20 months now, yesterday walked out of Pademba Road Prisons a free man.

After several adjournments with only one witness giving evidence at the Freetown High Court No.2, Omrie Golley who has over the

past months been complaining of being ill and suffering at Pademba Road Prisons breathed the air of freedom once again with all charges against him dropped by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, on a 'Nollie Prosequi' order for lack of evidence.

Early this week, Golley had told the Media after

court sittings that he had been deprived of his constitutional rights to fair trial.

He also called on the new APC Government that he was confident of a fair trial under the Government and recalled President Koroma's Presidential address to Parliament during the State Opening

Contd. P 4

Omrie Golley

From front Page

on October 5 this year, in which the President said that his Government will ensure the independence and impartiality of the Judiciary.

The Press Statement issued by Government also quoted the President as saying "Additionally , and also consistent with my Government's devotion to promote transparency and fairness in our judicial system , and in accordance with the TRC recommendations, politically motivated cases will be reviewed speedily.

Never again will the

judicial system be manipulated to unfairly silence political opponents," the President was quoted as saying

. Golley, this week also appealed to Human Rights Organizations to advocate on his behalf, so that justice would be seen to be done in his case.

He also complained that the matter had been delayed for too long. During the trial, Omrie Golley who was represented by Charles Margai and Ansu Lansana had complained about the first Judge, Justice Ademus, who was presiding over the matter

and the trial was suspended pending the appointment of another Judge.

This time, the case was allocated to a woman Judge Justice Mary Sey. Golley was arrested at his hotel room shortly before he left the shores of Sierra Leone on the grounds that he planned to assassinate the then Vice President Solomon Berewa.

Information and Communications Minister Alhaji Ibrahim Ben Kargbo confirming the turn of events told Premier News that indeed the President had promised and kept his words on the treatment of political cases.

New Citizen
Friday, 2 November 2007

OMRIE GOLLEY SET FREE

Mr. Omrie Golley, former spokes man for the RUF who helped to bring an end to the rebel war in Sierra Leone after a successful negotiation between the RUF and the SLPP government in 2001 who was arrested alongside other two Sierra Leoneans some time ago and charged with treason for attempting to



Mr. Omrie Golley
assassinate the former Vice President, Solomon

Berewa and to overthrow the SLPP government was yesterday released by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice of Sierra Leone who decided that there was no evidence linking the accused to the charge.

The Attorney-General's Office has established that there is no evidence to substantiate the allega-

tion of plotting to commit a treasonable offence levied against Mr. Omrie Golley, who holds a dual citizenship of Sierra Leone and Great Britain.

The Attorney General has therefore signed a 'nulle prosequi' order, which in our own language means no case to answer for the uncondi-

tional release of Mr. Omrie Golley from detention with immediate effect. This action of the Attorney General's is in consonance with H.E. Ernest Bai Koroma's declaration on paragraph 5 of his speech on the occasion of the State opening of Parliament on the 5th October, 2007

that says, 'Additionally, and also consistent with my government's devotion to promote transparency and fairness in our judicial system, and in accordance with the TRC recommendations, politically motivated cases will be reviewed speedily. Never again will the judicial system be manipulated to unfairly silence political

Cont't back page

From page 1

opponents.'

The news of Mr. Omrie Golley release from further detention was welcomed by his relatives and friends who have heaped praises on the government for the timely decision to release

GOLLEY

Omrie Golley from detention a man who has helped to bring an end to the civil war in Sierra Leone, there by contributing to the peace we are now enjoying in Sierra Leone.

"President Ernest Bai Koroma deserved praises for doing the right by releasing Omrie Golley from detention and by so doing he has

derailed the train of vindictiveness from our political leadership," a friend of Omrie Golley observed.

Omrie Golley was at first represented by the treason trial by veteran lawyer and politician Mr. Charles Francis Margai of PMDC fame who later on gave up due to heavy pressure from former government functionaries.

When Charles Margai left

the court Omrie Golley who is a dual citizen of Sierra Leone and UK was later represented by a renowned British Lawyer who also abandoned the case in duress.

Efforts to contact Mr. Omrie Golley for his reactions are still ongoing as he is expected to make statement about his detention and release. Meanwhile many Sierra Leoneans rejoiced with Mr. Omrie Golley and wish him good luck.

[Note: This story was carried by most of the Freetown newspapers.]

Awoko

Friday, 2 November 2007

Kenema prison in a state of disrepair

By Saffa Moriba

The state prison in Kenema was built in 1935. It used to be the main lock up for the Native Administration (NA) for the region. This prison has been going down the drain for years.

In an interview with Awoko the Deputy Regional Commander of the prison, Lamin Gobeh, discloses that that prison is in a deplorable state and over crowded.

He says there are eighteen staff quarters and few have been rehabilitated with an addition of four newly constructed quarters, adding that by January and February 2008 rehabilitation work of the perimeter fence of the prison that will separate both sexes will start.

Mr Gobeh advancing reasons why the prison is over crowded says it currently has 206 inmates instead of 70.

He explains that the Kenema prison takes care of prisoners who are sentenced above three years in both Kono and Kailahun districts.

Also suspects of committed matters from Kailahun district are brought to Kenema

because the High Court Judge does not go to Kailahun for court settings, and that the witnesses hardly follow such matters to Kenema.

“This also contributes to over crowding. In Kenema there are two JPs (Justice of the Peace), one magistrate and one judge who decide the fate of the people here.∴ the bail condition is very stiff which has led to many suspects being sent to the prison,” he reveals.

The commander reveals further that 90% of those in the Kenema prison yard are graduates of the NCDDR (National Commission for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration) programme even among the females.

Amnesty International

Thursday, 1 November 2007

Rally Supports Sexual Violence Survivors

At a mass rally held in Makeni in the Northern Province of Sierra Leone today, Amnesty International members and hundreds of other local activists called on the newly elected government of Sierra Leone to commit to ensuring justice and full reparations for the tens of thousands of Sierra Leonean women who have been the victims of sexual violence.

The organization also released a 35-page report entitled "Getting Reparations Right for Survivors of Sexual Violence," revealing the extent to which women are still stigmatized and suffering the after-effects of the sexual violence perpetrated during the conflict in Sierra Leone.

"The unimaginable brutality of violations committed against up to one third of Sierra Leone's women and girls, although well-documented, has still not been fully addressed by the government," said Tania Bernath, Amnesty International's researcher on Sierra Leone.

"For the women of Sierra Leone, the story is not over. They need appropriate healthcare and access to justice, work, economic opportunities and educational opportunities to help them to begin to re-build their lives."

Under international law, those responsible for rape, sexual slavery and sexual violence amounting to war crimes, crimes against humanity and torture must be brought to justice and the survivors must receive full and effective reparations. Reparations must, as far as possible, wipe out all consequences of the illegal act and re-establish the situation that would have, in all probability, existed had the act not been committed.

The Lomé Peace Accord, signed in 1999, provided for the establishment of a "Special Fund for War Victims" and for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Despite the government's obligation to establish such a fund and repeated calls from civil society, the fund has not been established.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission also called for the establishment of a reparations process. This is now being set up, with the National Commission for Social Action taking the lead, but it will need the full support of the government to be effective.

"The delay in setting up a special fund for war victims of Sierra Leone's devastating conflict has undoubtedly resulted in further suffering -- especially for the women of Sierra Leone," said Bernath. "Survivors of sexual violence have been denied rehabilitation -- extending their suffering and compounding their physical and psychological problems."

"Implementing the reparations program recommended by the TRC is also crucial and it will be important for the government to get it right so the survivors of sexual violence do not miss out on the much needed reparations"

Amnesty International stressed in its report that the justice process is an important complement to other forms of reparations.

"A properly functioning justice system should enable survivors to describe what has happened to them in an environment that protects their dignity and helps to end impunity for the horrific crimes they have suffered -- holding the perpetrators to account and bringing them to justice."

"It is almost six years since the end of the devastating conflict that wracked Sierra Leone for years, causing immeasurable suffering to civilians in the country -- particularly women," said Bernath. "And yet, the suffering for women has not ended. The lack of justice and effective remedies has to a certain extent set the stage for further violence against women. "

Despite the passage of several women's rights bills, violations of women's rights in Sierra Leone continue unabated. Not only is violence against women and girls rampant, but efforts to prosecute perpetrators have been largely ineffective.

"Family mediation aimed at restoring 'peace' in rape cases contributes to impunity -- rather than furthering justice," said Bernath. "Such mediation facilitates the government evading its responsibility to ensure that all violence against women is prosecuted."

Background

There has been little justice for survivors of war-related sexual violence in Sierra Leone. On 20 June 2007 the Special Court for Sierra Leone found three senior members of the AFRC guilty of 11 out of 14 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. These included rape and outrages on personal dignity including sexual slavery. Remarkably, this was the first instance of anyone in Sierra Leone being held to account for war-related crimes. While this is a significant step forward in the fight against impunity, it is only a small and partial response to addressing impunity for these crimes, since thousands of others have escaped justice.

However an amnesty clause in the Lomé Accord bars prosecution of anyone accused of committing war crimes, crimes against humanity and other crimes between 1991 and 1999. The amnesty also precludes victims from seeking reparations from perpetrators in Sierra Leone's national courts.

Amnesty International continues to call on the government of Sierra Leone to revoke its amnesty law as a matter of urgency and to prioritize rebuilding the justice system in order to effectively investigate all crimes committed during the conflict and prosecute those suspected to committing the crimes.

Associated Press

Thursday, 1 November 2007

Sierra Leone coup plot suspect released for lack of evidence

By CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY

Freetown, Sierra Leone

A former rebel charged with trying to overthrow the government of Sierra Leone was released from prison after 22 months Thursday with all charges dropped.

Omrie Golley was a spokesman for the Revolutionary United Front rebels, who have been accused of war crimes during the West African country's 1991-2002 fighting. He had been charged with trying to organize a force in 2005 to topple the West African country's postwar government.

Golley, a dual citizen of Sierra Leone and Britain, was cleared of treason and conspiracy charges because of a lack of evidence, said Minister for Presidential & Public Affairs Alpha Kanu.

Golley was arrested in January 2006 and charged with trying to overthrow then-President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah. He had been held in a maximum security prison in the capital since his arrest.

Kanu said Golley's release was in keeping with newly elected President Ernest Bai Koroma's pledge to clear from the courts cases that were "politically motivated."

Special Court Supplement
The Prosecutor Donating to the Single Leg Amputee Football Club
Wednesday, 31 October 2007, at the Mandela Field in Cline Town

